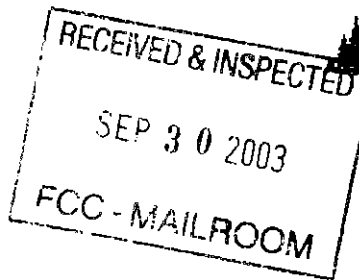
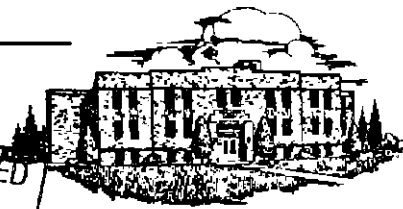


**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

RIO BLANCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE

POST OFFICE BOX 1

MEEKER, COLORADO 81641



September 23, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary, FCC  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room TW B204  
Washington, DC 20554

Ref: In the matter of review of Sec. 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, CC Docket No. 01-338; In the matter of implementation of the local competition provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-98; In the matter of deployment of wireline services offering advanced telecommunications Capability, CC Docket No. 98-147

Emergency Joint Petition for Stay by the CHOICE Coalition

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As Rio Blanco County Commissioners in rural NW Colorado, we are very concerned about our ability to receive broadband telecom services. We have received notice of the Emergency Joint Petition For Stay of the FCC's line-sharing ruling filed by the CHOICE Coalition. Because we are anxious about the future of broadband in our area, we strongly support the request for a stay of the line-sharing ruling

In recent years, we have personally enjoyed substantial benefits from competition in broadband services, thanks largely to the ability of firms like NC Telecom and the members of the Coalition to provide low-cost, high-speed internet connections through DSL service using access to the high frequency portion of local telephone lines.

Customers across the nation have recently enjoyed substantial price reductions for DSL and it is now being deployed more rapidly than ever throughout the nation. It would be very unfortunate if the elimination of line-sharing were to cause an increase in the cost of providing DSL service, hence of the cost of wireline broadband internet access services.

Forrest F Nelson, Commissioner

Meeker (970) 878-5001 \* Fax (970) 878-5442

Kim A Cook, Chairman

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bocc@co rio-blanco co us

Donald L Davis, Commissioner

Rangely (970) 675-2087 \* Fax (970) 675-5211

The Coalition cites as the irreparable harm that they will suffer if a stay is not granted, and we are concerned that our future access to broad band will be impacted.

For the above reasons we support the coalition's request for a stay of the FCC's Triennial Review Order as it relates to line-sharing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim A. Cook", is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Kim A. Cook, Chair  
Rio Blanco County Commissioners